

Khomeini's condition 'deteriorates'

AMMAN (AP) — Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's condition was reported deteriorating Saturday, 11 days after he underwent surgery for bleeding in his digestive system. Iran's state-run radio and television, controlled by Nicolas, urged the nation to pray for the 86-year-old leader's recovery. Both carried a brief statement from Khomeini's office that said: "At 3:00 p.m. (1130 GMT) on Saturday a complication arose in the human's condition, which the doctors are trying to control. We urge the nation to pray for the Imam's health, and hope that their prayers will be answered."

Television followed its regular evening newscast with film of Khomeini in his hospital bed awaiting surgery, interspersed with shots of frenzied at-most prayer sessions. The same sequence has been shown nightly since the revolutionary patriarch underwent surgery at a Tehran hospital May 23 to control intestinal bleeding. There was no immediate indication that Iran's official media were preparing the nation for an announcement of his death. But the report that Khomeini's condition had worsened made a sharp contrast with earlier medical bulletins stressing that he was making a normal recovery and taking solid food.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation



Free zone goods to be allowed in

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday decided to allow the release from the free zone of goods whose imports were banned under a government decision taken in November last year. The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zaid bin Shaker, decided that the goods could be released to their respective importers after the necessary customs duties are paid. The exemption only applies to goods already stored in the free zone. Another decision taken by the Cabinet Saturday endorsed a contribution to Jordan of three million European currency units by the European Community to help the Kingdom develop environmental water sources in the Al Azraq basin. The Cabinet also endorsed an executive programme for cultural and scientific cooperation between Jordan and Iraq for the period 1989-1991 as well as the 1989 budget and organization structures of the Aqaba Railway Corporation and the Free Zones Corporation.

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Dozens killed, hundreds wounded

Troops storm Peking square

PEKING (Agencies) — Troops smashed into the heart of Peking early Sunday killing at least 28 people on the way and surrounded and fired on Tiananmen Square where protesters huddled around the monument to the People's Heroes.

At least 28 deaths were confirmed by witnesses and doctors. More than 200 were wounded.

"I have just had my last cigarette. Tonight we are going to die," said a crying worker at the monument as red flares soared overhead and gunfire was heard.

Students chanted "Drop your weapons" and sang the International — the communist anthem.

One doctor at a small hospital near the clashes said the facility had treated about 100 people for injuries, and that 12 had died. A soldier was killed in another part of the city when he was run over by a tank racing towards the square.

Thousands of troops armed with rifles marched up the east side of the vast square from about 1 a.m. (1600 GMT Saturday). They fired tracer bullets across Tiananmen, occupied by up to 200,000 pro-democracy students and their supporters.

People were killed by pellets and rubber bullets. Others showed casings from live ammunition.

Students threw Molotov cocktails and other objects at them, while troops beat those who obstructed their path with sticks. One armoured personnel carrier

rammed into a burning bus and burst into flames.

Two people inside were dragged out by the crowds and beaten severely.

One man who had been shot in the arm said the casualty room where he was treated was inches deep in blood.

"They were simply raking the crowd with bullets," the man said.

The area immediately northwest of Tiananmen was littered with abandoned and burning military vehicles.

One woman who said she was married to one of the soldiers in Peking said: "The People's Army has become a fascist army, pointing guns at their own people."

Her husband had been ordered not to discuss the democracy movement with anyone, not even his own family, she said.

Witnesses said the troops fired weapons and used armoured personnel carriers to crush through barricades set up by citizens. A medical student on the scene said the man's heart had stopped beating and there was "little hope" for his survival.

The troops walked into the square, firing as they moved, at first firing over the heads of protesters but later lowering their aim.

Some workers around the monument tried to hurl petrol bombs at the advancing soldiers, but students urged non-violence.

Thousands of students and workers crouched between the monument and a makeshift "Statue of Liberty" erected by the students five days ago.

Two armoured personnel carriers

burned brightly on the edge of the square.

A Western reporter saw eight bodies at Shuihu hospital in the western outskirts of Peking, and a doctor said more than 20 dead were at nearby Fuxingmen hospital.

A Western reporter outside Tiananmen Square said people were fleeing the soldiers, screaming "bandits, bandits."

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U.N. chief says outline of Cyprus accord discernible

NICOSIA (AP) — Talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders for the reunification of the war-divided island have reached a point where the outline of an agreement is discernible, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Saturday.

"I hope that this trend will continue so that I shall be able to report to the council positive results after my meeting with the two leaders at the end of June," the U.N. chief added in his bi-annual report to the Security Council.

The report was released here by the headquarters of the U.N. peaceforce which patrols a buffer zone splitting the Turkish-occupied north from the Greek Cypriot-controlled southern part of the island.

Perez de Cuellar succeeded in restarting the deadlocked Cyprus peace process last August after a break of nearly three years.

Three rounds of talks have been held between Greek Cypriot leader, George Vassiliou, president of the internationally recognised Cyprus government, and veteran Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, the president of a breakaway state in the north, which is recognised only by Turkey.

"The talks in which the leaders of the two sides have engaged in since last August have progressed to the point where the contours of an overall agreement are discernible," Perez de Cuellar said in his report.

He added that over the past month the two leaders have "been engaged in an exercise to prepare an outline for an overall

agreement."

"The objective is to define the solutions for the issues that make up the Cyprus problem, and to set out the principles and procedures for translating the outline into an overall agreement."

"The discussions have brought out a number of specific ideas that could go a long way in resolving major issues," Perez de Cuellar added, without revealing details of the points of progress.

Perez de Cuellar set a June 1 deadline for the two leaders when he brought them together for the first time Geneva in August.

But despite nine months of intensive talks the two leaders have been unable to hammer out a settlement and were given until the end of June by Perez de Cuellar to break the deadlock in their negotiations.

Contradiction

Perez de Cuellar's optimistic assessment of a possible breakthrough is contradicted by recent statements by both Cypriot leaders.

Vassiliou has blamed Turkish intransigence for the lack of progress. "We have submitted comprehensive proposals for the solution of all aspects of the Cyprus problem. World opinion agrees with us that our proposals are honourable, reasonable and

can lead to an agreement," he declared in a speech this week.

The two sides have agreed in principle on the establishment of a bi-zonal federation with the 550,000 Greek Cypriot majority sharing power with the 120,000 Turkish Cypriot minority.

But they disagree strongly on the powers of the central government. The Greek side also balks at the permanent presence of Turkish troops in Cyprus as part of a guarantee of the island's independence, coupled with a right of unilateral intervention.

In a recent interview Vassiliou said: "We have accepted a complete federal system, whereas the Turkish proposals speak of two separate states with some weak cooperation."

"This is not a settlement formula, but a formula for constant friction."

Denktash said that the extension of the June 1 deadline will give them a chance to "draw up a document to establish what differences are."

He added that if it proves impossible to bridge the differences that will be pinpointed "we will either try to continue the dialogue to try to find new avenues of reconciliation, or we will say the affair ends here. You want one thing, we want another."

The Greek Cypriot side argues that a settlement must be based on Security Council resolutions that demand the withdrawal of an estimated 30,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from north Cyprus and the return of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes there.



THE HISTORIC MEETING... Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi meet in Casablanca,

Morocco, during the May 23-26 Arab summit signalling an end to a decade of Egyptian-Libyan hostility

Egypt-Libya rapprochement 'faster than anyone expected'

By Myra Macdonald
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt is moving towards ending years of hostility with Libya's Muammar Qaddafi but some Egyptians are wary of new relations with the Arab World's most unpredictable leader.

Government sources said an official delegation would fly to Libya Sunday for talks aimed at rapprochement between Egypt, the Arab World's most populous country, and Libya, its smaller neighbour.

They reopened their border less than a week after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Qaddafi at the Casablanca summit which readmitted Egypt to the Arab League.

Libyans are arriving in Egypt at the frontier post of Saloum on the and Mediterranean coast. Some come to visit families for the first time in a decade.

Egyptian airspace is to be reopened to Libya and normal flights between the two countries could resume as early as Wednesday, the government sources said.

Qaddafi is also said to have agreed to compensate thousands of Egyptian workers expelled when Egypt signed its treaty with Israel in 1979.

"Everything is moving much faster than anyone expected," said a government source who forecast that diplomatic relations could be restored within weeks.

But other government sources said Cairo would move much more carefully because many people remain wary of Qaddafi, who began the 1970s pushing for a merger with Egypt and ended

the decade calling for the overthrow of its government.

"I think Mubarak is very cautious that his relationship with Libya must go step by step," said Makram Mohammad Ahmed, editor of the political weekly Al Muzzawar magazine. "We expect Qaddafi will behave. But nobody can have a guarantee."

The border had been closed since a brief war in 1977. Its reopening has not been officially announced in Cairo.

But people have begun to flow quietly in both directions through Saloum, which is separated from the nearest main town by 200 kilometres of desert.

The history of Egypt's relations with Libya is enough to make many Egyptians suspicious, despite the warm embrace Mubarak received in Casablanca from Qaddafi.

Both countries talked about a merger less than two decades ago and as many as 200,000 Egyptians travelled across the border to work in the oil-rich but sparsely-populated country.

Some radicals still believe that a union with Libya could be the answer to Egypt's growing problem of over-population.

But relations deteriorated when Qaddafi condemned former President Anwar Sadat's handling of the 1973 war with Israel.

The enmity erupted into open warfare during the four-day border war in 1977. Sadat's peace treaty with the Zionist state was the end of the road for the fiercely anti-Israeli Qaddafi.

On its side, Egypt has accused Libya of plotting sabotage attacks and attempting to kill Libyan exiles living here.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Arabs withdraw ITU proposal

NICE, France (R) — Saudi Arabia has withdrawn a proposal to expel Israel from the United Nations International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The proposal, put forward last November by Saudi Arabia, Syria and Qatar, was removed from the agenda of the ITU's six-week conference which began in Nice Friday. "In the name of international detente looked for by the world community, the Arab delegations at the conference decided not to pursue the issue," said Saudi Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Faisal Zaidan said. Arab countries had accused Israel of interrupting telecommunications in the occupied territories and preventing the Palestinian people from exercising their right under the ITU convention. The co-chaired step was in response to demands by some delegates who asked for the political issue to be dropped so the conference could get on with its work, Zaidan said.

Mitterrand visits Tunisia tomorrow

TUNIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand will start a two-day state visit to Tunisia Monday, the Foreign Ministry announced. It will be the first official visit by a Western head of state since President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali took power in November 1987. Tunisia is home to the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation but French diplomats said no meeting was scheduled between the French president and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Arafat made an official visit to Paris May 2. Mitterrand will travel to the southern Tunisian oasis of Tamerza Tuesday and give a press conference before returning to Paris.

Iran ponders population growth

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei hinted at the need to check population growth Friday, but stopped short of advocating birth control in the Islamic state. The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Khamenei as telling tens of thousands of faithful during the weekly prayer meeting in Tehran: "Don't make an excuse out of the Prophet (Mohammad) if you want to have more children." He explained that in its early days Islam advocated large families because there were only about 100,000 people in the Arabian peninsula. "But this does not mean that for the rest of history every Muslim family is obliged to have 8, 10 or 12 kids," Khamenei said. His sermon reflected increasing concern by the Iranian government over the rate of population growth. IRNA said the government was trying to encourage people, apparently only in some rural areas, to use contraceptives. But there was no national plan to reduce the rate of population growth which at 3.7 per cent annually is one of the highest in the world, it added. IRNA said Iran's population according to the latest census is over 50 million and is expected to reach 100 million in 20 years.

Leftists disrupt university exams

RABAT (R) — Protests by leftist groups are threatening to paralyse several Moroccan universities where students are being urged to boycott end-of-year examinations, officials and opposition party sources said Friday. But academic sources said the situation was normal at the main universities in Rabat and Casablanca, where exams had taken place on schedule. Ahmad Alaoui, senior government minister without portfolio, denounced the protest action at universities in Fez, Oujda, Tetuan and Meknes. In an editorial in the pro-government daily Maroc Soir, Alaoui said a "small group of professional subversives" were using violence and torture to enforce an examination boycott. They were demanding an end to the expulsion of students who failed exams, the continued payment of scholarships until graduates find jobs and the readmission of all drop-outs. Alaoui described the demands as scandalous and urged the government to react vigorously to prevent students losing a whole academic year.

Thais urge U.S. restraint

BANGKOK (AP) — A Thai official urged the United States to act with restraint Friday over the issue of a factory in Libya which Washington claims is a chemical weapons plant employing Thai workers. In Washington, a State Department official said Thursday that the U.S. government was pressing Thailand to arrange the repatriation of an estimated 270 Thai workers from the disputed factory complex at Rabta. But Deputy Foreign Office spokesman Prachayadvi Tavedikul said it was unclear whether Thai workers were employed at the Rabta plant. "The U.S. has told us that no action would be taken against Libya, we hope that the United States will continue to use reason rather than violence," Prachayadvi said. "We don't know if there are workers there. We have conflicting information, we have to rely on what the Libyans say and they have assured there are no Thais at Rabta," he said. He said, however, that a Foreign Ministry official was in Libya to review the situation and that Bangkok has drawn up a contingency plan to evacuate Thai workers if necessary, he said. Prachayadvi said 25,000 Thais were working mainly in the construction industry in Libya, while Libyan officials have said as many as 70,000 Thais were working in their country.

Gorbachev sends regret to Greece

ATHENS (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev sent a message to Premier Andreas Papandreou Friday expressing regret that his foreign minister had to abruptly postpone a visit to Greece, the government spokesman said. Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze cancelled a three-day official visit to Greece Monday, two days before it was set to begin. Government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos said Gorbachev's message was delivered to the premier by the Soviet envoy in Athens. "President Gorbachev expressed his regret for the temporary postponement of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Greece, stressing that he attributes great significance to this visit, which he hopes will take place soon," Kostopoulos said. Earlier this week, Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Sliousov told reports that the foreign minister postponed his visit because he had to attend a session of the Congress of Peoples Deputies in Moscow. Shevardnadze's planned visit triggered a series of protests from opposition parties, which charged that Papandreou's governing Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) was planning to use the trip to its benefit in the campaign for June 18 national elections.

Iraqis build giant clock in Baghdad

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq has launched a \$45-million project providing for the construction in Baghdad of a giant clock with gold-plated hands and a 43-metre pendulum, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Thursday.

The agency did not say when the project will be completed, but that work already has started in the Harithiya district, overlooking the highway connecting downtown Baghdad with the international airport.

The clock tower, it said, will be made of reinforced cement. It will be 51 metres high, built inside an octagon-shaped building that also will house a

museum, a shopping mall, restaurants, cafes and conference halls.

It said the ground floor will be reserved for statues depicting major events in the life of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, starting with his birth.

The building will be surrounded by 23 water fountains, green lawns and rose gardens covering an area of 38 square kilometres.

Irqi engineers, identified by INA as Mohammad Dia Abdul Karim, and his wife, Nisreen, designed the complex, being financed by the Military Industry Committee.

Arab Gulf states face rising unemployment

By Mariam Al Khalifa
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Bahraini Mohammad Yousef washes cars in the parking lot of a five-star hotel in this Gulf oil state while he looks for a job with a more promising future.

Eighteen-year-old Mohammad, oldest in a family of 12, says his parents don't approve of his work — normally the domain of the island's Asian labourers — but they welcome his earnings of around four dinars (\$11) a day.

He is one of a growing number of young Gulf nationals who have been forced by their shrinking economies to take jobs they would have rejected outright during the oil boom a decade ago.

"I work to live, but I would like to be a car mechanic someday," he said simply.

An economic boom fuelled by rocketing oil prices in the late 1970's ushered in a era of tremendous wealth in the region, along with a flood of Asian, European and American workers.

Economists say despite a determined drive by governments

of the six member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to replace expatriates with nationals, imported labour still outnumbers locals, especially in the private sector.

With more than half their people under the age of 20 and the population multiplying at a near record rate of 3.6 per cent, Gulf officials are worried about finding jobs for their citizens.

A U.N. study has predicted the total population in GCC members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will swell to 27.9 million by the year 2000 from 15 million in 1985 and 18.6 million in 1989.

Zayani said there were three main reasons for the problem:

slower economic growth due to lower oil prices, more young people entering the workforce, and the availability of cheap

foreign labour which flooded the region in the late 1970s.

To reverse the trend, the government has launched a scheme to replace 20,000 expatriates in the private sector with Bahrainis during the next five years.

It targeted 13 occupations ranging from drivers to hotel staff and sent letters to 400 firms asking each to comply with an individually-designed replacement plan by June 1994.

The study assumed no economic growth — if there is growth we have no objections to the companies keeping the foreign labour as long as they also employ the Bahrainis," Zayani said.

The economies of Arab Gulf states were hard hit by flagging oil prices in 1986 and 1987 but have since begun to recover.

Only one third of Bahrain's population is foreign, compared with two thirds in neighbouring Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE. But the other states face similar problems.

In Saudi Arabia, expatriates also form one third of the 13 million-strong population and foreign workers hold at least 90 per cent of the jobs in the

kingdom's private sector.

An official report published in a Saudi daily last October said the number of "job-seekers" within the kingdom had risen 13 per cent in 1987 from the previous year. It gave no figures.

Saudi efforts

Officials say the kingdom's next five-year plan — due to begin when the Hijra year 1410 starts in August — will stress manpower development and the part private firms can play.

Kuwait says it spends an average of 1,500 dinars (\$5,100) a year on subsidies to each foreigner in the country and is considering ways of transferring some of the cost to their employers.

UAE authorities have recently announced plans to put its nationals in all 50,000 government jobs — one fifth of which are now held by its citizens — in order to assimilate local school graduates.

Most GCC states have made sweeping progress in putting their citizens in state-run industries, but have made little headway in convincing private firms to follow suit.

Economists say this is partly because more people need to be trained in manufacturing, technical and industrial skills.

Gulf universities could provide the long-term requirements for business and professional people but were not meeting current manpower needs or facing the challenge of making blue-collar jobs more socially acceptable, they add.

The most important thing which makes this region different from others is that you don't have to create employment opportunities — they are there, but are filled by expatriates, Gulf international bank economist Henry Azam said.

"What is needed is proper training and the scaling down of wage aspirations," he told Reuters.

But officials and diplomats say the tide is turning.

"There is no question that attitudes are changing — many young Saudis have accepted posts their older brothers wouldn't have dreamed of doing," the Riyadh-based diplomat said.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigades 591228
Blood Bank 73121
Highway Police 543402
Traffic Police 589200
Public Security Department 636221
Hotel Complaints 625300
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

New department takes charge of E. Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ziad Ibn Shaker Saturday inaugurated a Greater Amman municipality department entrusted with supervising municipal work in the Nasr and other districts in the eastern areas of the capital.

The new complex comprises offices, two libraries, including one for children, and a multi-purpose hall surrounded by a 3,500-seat public garden.

The prime minister inspected the complex, the second of its type in the Amman region, set up to help promote the municipality's work in the capital's suburbs. The first complex was set up in Basman and was opened last

week during the Kingdom's celebrations of Independence Day.

The Nasr complex will be in charge of services for 127,087 inhabitants living in Jabal Taj, Jabal Jofeh, Hay Um Tinchi, Manara, Alia Al Gharbi, Hay Rabwe, Jabal Nasr, Hamla, the Prince Hassan camp and the Khastan district.

Sharif Ziad met with repre-

sentatives of youth clubs, women

organisations and local commu-

nity to discuss municipal services

to their region. Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabi

deh and municipal council mem-

bers were present at the meeting

and the inauguration ceremony.

21 female adult students honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 21 female adult learners at literacy centres set up by the Ministry of Education was honoured at a ceremony Saturday for their distinctive work and excellent learning performance.

The ceremony was addressed by Dr. Abdulla Al Khatib, president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), who outlined the national effort in the battle against illiteracy and the joint efforts of the Ministry of Education and GUVS in achieving this end.

The aim of the Ministry of Education is to reduce the current illiterate population of 15 per cent to 10 per cent by the end of the century, Khatib said.

He announced that GUVS was contributing JD 5,000 to be spent on research in the course of eradicating illiteracy in the Kingdom.

In March, Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Al Masri told a meeting here that

15 per cent of the total population

aged between 15 and 45 were

illiterate and it was hoped that by

the year 2,000 the rate will be

reduced to 10 per cent.

He said more than 10,000

illiterates, most of them women,

were registered at the 540 literacy

centres set up by the Ministry of

Education in the Kingdom.

Over the past 20 years, more

than 150,000 Jordanians benefit-

ed from these centres, Masri

noted.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan inspects architectural projects by University of Jordan's faculty of engineering students

Prince inspects architectural display

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal

Highness Crown Prince Hassan

Saturday visited the University of

Jordan and inspected an exhibi-

tion of architectural designs by

university students. The designs

include projects that would be

carried out in Jordan in the

course of the 1986-1990 Five-

Year National Development

Plan.

Prince Hassan referred to a

meeting by ACC countries due to

convene this summer in North

Yemen, and said that it was

designed to promote cooperation

among the four countries — Jordan,

Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq.

Altogether, 49 architectural

designs are on display at the

exhibition prepared by 10 male

and female students of the en-

other students.

The Crown Prince also called for the creation of a specialised consultative body capable of providing data and information which could be of use not only in Jordan but also in the four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries.

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Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq.

Altogether, 49 architectural

designs are on display at the

exhibition prepared by 10 male

and female students of the en-

gineering faculty's graduating

Graduation

According to an announcement by the University of Jordan, cere-

monies for graduating students

from various faculties will take

place on four separate dates. It

said that June 6, 1989 has been

assigned for the graduation of

students from the faculties of

arts, and economics; June 7, for

those from the Shari'a, law and

physical education; June 8, stu-

dents from the faculties of sci-

ences, medicine, agriculture, nurs-

ing, pharmacy and engineering,

and June 11, students from the

faculties of dentistry and post

graduate studies.

AFESD agrees to finance part of Jordan-Egypt power linkage project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt have reached initial agreement with the Arab World for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) on AFESD financing for linking Jordanian and Egyptian national power grids, Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafa announced Saturday.

The project, which is expected to begin in 1990 and to be completed by 1993, will entail a 300-kilometre 500-kilovolt line linking Suez in Egypt and Aqaba. Arafa said in a statement upon returning from a meeting on the project held in Cairo where the agreement with the AFESD was concluded.

Jordan will obtain \$35 million and Egypt \$125 million in soft loans to carry out the project, Arafa said.

The project entails laying an 11-kilometre submarine cable line between Sinai and Aqaba and establishing transformer stations and other installations along the route.

The two sides will soon sign a contract with an international consultancy firm to conduct a feasibility study on the submarine cable before the final documents can be prepared for a tender to be announced early in 1991. Arafa said.

Egypt and Jordan had been working closely with the French firm "Electricite de France" in this regard.

Arafa said the linkage with Egypt would help the two sides deal with emergency power shortages and benefit from low-cost power produced by either side.

Official JEA statistics indicate that Jordan's overall power consumption currently stands at 500 megawatts but that overall production capacity when all stations are operational is likely to be 900 megawatts.

The linkage of power grids was approved by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in 1986 when Cairo and Amman decided to embark on measures in this connection and to upgrade their transformer and power-generating stations.

Jordan's grid was connected with Syria's in 1981 with a 230-kilovolt line and the two countries have since been exchanging

power wherever there was use for such practice.

Last March, Jordan and four Middle Eastern countries reached agreement on power grid interconnection in the region and to promote cooperation among themselves in energy-related fields.

The five countries — Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Turkey and Iraq — also chose Amman to serve as the headquarters of a technical committee comprising delegations from the five states to plan projects in the course of carrying out the programme.

The Islamic Development Bank and the AFESD which were represented at the meeting said they would finance the project.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib was quoted in March as saying that Iraq and Jordan were studying the prospect of linking their grids and the way was of open for power grid linkage with other Arab states in the region.

The Turkish and Iraqi grids are already linked and Iraq is currently supplying parts of Turkey with electric power.

Energy officials and specialists from Jordan and Egypt believe that the Jordanian-Egyptian linkage project will cost \$170 million.

'Arab power generation needs investments, maintenance'

AMMAN (Petra) — Annual demand on electric power in the Arab World is growing at the rate of seven to 10 per cent and further investments in power generation and distribution are urgently needed and maintenance work on installations is essential to meet future needs. Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafa said here Saturday.

The Arab World's current power-generation capacity now stands at 65,000 megawatts and at least \$5 billion is invested annually in power-generation projects in the Arab countries. Arafa said in an address to the opening session of a six-day meeting cal-

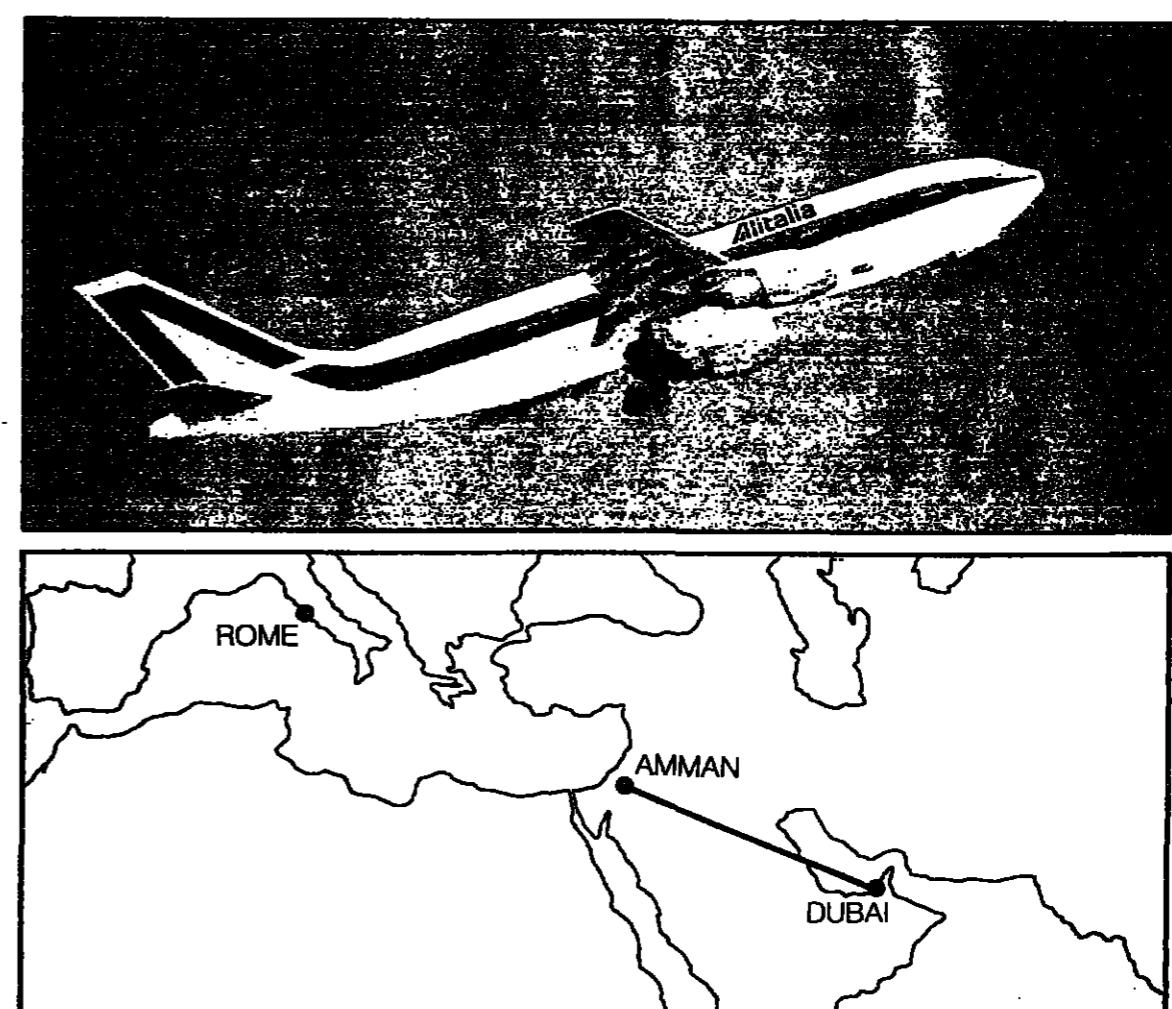
led to discuss means of promoting maintenance and operating power generating equipment in the Arab World.

The seminar, organised by JEA, the power corporation of Sweden, and the United Nations, is attended by delegates from various Arab states and Turkey.

By adopting sound techniques and methods in maintenance and by manufacturing spare parts for power generation units and equipment, the Arab World can reduce expenditure, Arafa noted.

A mere one per cent improvement in maintenance and performance of generating units will save up to \$500 million annually, Arafa added.

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

PLANNING TALKS: Planning Minister Ziad Fariz discussed with Italian Ambassador in Amman Francesco de Curten, cooperation in the fields of regional planning as well as means to promote channels of contact with regard to the private sector and increasing investment (Petra).

SDD COURSE: A total of sixty women Saturday enrolled in a training course organised by the Social Development Department in cooperation with Salt Charity Association. During the seven-day course, the participants will receive theoretical and practical lessons on causes of handicaps, care for pregnant mothers, and the proper care for the disabled (Petra).

UNIVERSITY HANDBOOK: The University of Jordan Saturday issued its 1989 handbook, providing study plans for various under-

graduate courses. The university has 13 faculties which provide courses around the year to undergraduate students and postgraduates. The handbook also outlines information about the university's various language and scientific centres (J.T.).

ADMINISTRATION COURSE: A number of employees at the government administrative and training departments have begun a training course at the Institute of Public Administration. The five-day course includes subjects dealing with steps of scientific research as well as means to prepare reports and statistical studies (Petra).

MEDICAL EXHIBIT: An exhibition was opened Saturday at Zatari medical centre in Mafraq. The exhibition includes drawings illustrating means to preserve public health and prevent diseases (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition by French artist "Olivier Mutilloid" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Nihad Qutaishat at Al Quds (Jerusalem) Hotel.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Jadworkshop" displaying cartoons by Lebanese artist George Khouri (Jad) at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre exhibition which includes maps, aerial photographs, digital maps and remote sensing at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A lecture in French, entitled "The Arab Orient and French Geographers" by Andre Bourgey at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Stage Door" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

group to the meeting, will submit to the Geneva meeting a joint resolution denouncing Israel's violations and acts of repression against the Arab people in general and workers and trade and labour unions in particular, the minister said. The resolution will call on the ILO conference to set up a special committee to review the two former ILO resolutions and, together with the ILO director general, decide on measures to extend assistance to the Arab workers under Israeli occupation, the minister said.

The racist policies of the South African government and precautionary measures to be followed in the usage of chemical materials will be among the other topics for discussion at the ILO conference, the minister added.

The Jordanian delegation to the 22-day conference groups representatives of the government, Jordanian employers and workers.

Jordan Times

Local and regional news political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Last chance for Lebanon

THE ARAB League "troika" on Lebanon — King Hassan of Morocco, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Chadli Benjedid of Algeria — today begin the difficult task of hammering out a political settlement to the 15-year-old Lebanese bloodbath. The responsibilities that the Arab League has entrusted to the three leaders look awesome, seen in the light of the realities on the ground in Lebanon and the deep rift drenched in blood between the warring factions in the country, but, the Arab World pins high hopes that the diplomatic experience and influence that the three veteran statesmen will bear fruit. Perhaps, that is the only light at the end of the tunnel for Lebanon and for all those interested in seeing peace and tranquility restored to that country.

No matter how one looks at it, one thing is clear and simple: The central issues at stake in Lebanon have to be taken by the horn and shaken. Anything short of that will not work. Too much water has flown under the Arab bridge to hope that today's meeting in Morocco could produce miracles to settle the Lebanese strife. Fundamental reforms have to be brought about in the country and its constitution and unwritten covenants should be altered in a manner just and fair to all concerned. Those who hold out for less or more need their arms twisted and there is none more qualified to do that job other than the leaders of Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Algeria.

There is little doubt that a solution to the conflict has to come from the Arab World, and Arab World alone. We have seen the superpowers are more than happy to skirt around Lebanon when it comes to decisive action; the U.S., which burnt itself very badly with the short-sighted policies adopted by the Reagan White House, cannot be dragged to taste anymore of Lebanese waters. The Soviet Union has signalled on more than one occasion that it cannot be expected to play any meaningful role in the imbroglio. No doubt for the better for all concerned, since any internationalisation of the issue would only create more complications and dead ends. But the danger is still there of intervention by non-Arab powers which pose the threat of deepening religious animosities in the country.

We can draw some comfort from the fact that the Arab League "troika" was named by the Casablanca summit, which offered the right forum for airing different Arab viewpoints and deep deliberations over Lebanon. To be sure, conflicting positions were stated and understood. In a way it has lightened the task of the heads-of-state committee since the immediate necessity of a mini-summit of Arab leaders has been eliminated. But, sooner or later, such a gathering is inevitable simply because the fundamental elements in the Lebanese scene are very complex and need the highest level of understanding by Arab leaders. By the same token, today's deliberations unmistakably represent what could be easily described as the last chance for Lebanon. We hope the chance will not go to waste and that it will be the beginning of an end to the violence and rivalries plaguing Lebanon and not the other way around.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper Saturday elaborated on a meeting to open Sunday in Rabat by a three-member higher committee to look into means of ending the Lebanese crisis. The paper said that with the start of the committee's work, the hopes of the Arab masses in general and the Lebanese people in particular grow and optimism increases, specially as the ceasefire in the embattled city of Beirut still holds. The Lebanese question has originally motivated the Arab summit, and the Arab leaders who set up this committee at the level of heads of state displayed determination to go ahead with serious efforts to resolve the internal Lebanese conflict, the paper noted. But the committee, the paper added, has a formidable task awaiting it, if the Arabs are to see the end of the dark tunnel in Lebanon and a new dawn of peace and security for its people. The salvation of Lebanon represents a tough test for the Arab League and the three-member committee both of which realise that strenuous efforts are needed and cooperation with all parties is required if a solution is to be reached, the paper noted. It said the sufferings of the Lebanese people should prompt the committee to intensify all efforts to reach a lasting settlement.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily focuses attention on agriculture in Jordan as being the backbone of the national economy and one that requires serious and constant attention. Salah Abdul Samad says that the Ministry of Agriculture realises that the agricultural sector faces numerous problems and it will be advisable to take the initiative of involving as many concerned people as possible in solving these issues. The writer proposes constant consultation with representatives of the local farmers and open dialogues with experts and agricultural engineers on topics that would help promote production and marketing. Abdul Samad says criticism, assessment and discussion are all part of process designed to help the country and the farmers achieve the best results, and therefore such practice can and should be adopted. This process, he adds, can be conducted through the media and open meetings and gatherings at any level.

Al Dustour daily also dwells on the Lebanese question and the developments on the Lebanese scene over the past 14 years. The paper said that Lebanon is indeed a bleeding wound in the body of the Arab World; and is being made worse through negative effects on Lebanon as a result of regional and international developments. But, it added, the Arab summit of Casablanca has brought Lebanon a new hope with the formation of a high level Arab committee entrusted with taking all possible measures to end the conflict and the civil strife in Lebanon. The heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco who are meeting Sunday to embark on their task in Lebanon face a tough mission ahead. But, the paper added, as long as the ceasefire continues to hold and as long as the warring parties are willing to cooperate, hopes for a settlement will grow, and the road for peace will be paved.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Sell correction programme to the people

AMMAN — The Association of Banks in Jordan hosted a lecture by Dr. Abdul Shakour Shaalan, director of the Middle East Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The lecture, which attracted a selected group of bankers and economists, took place last Wednesday and was also attended by two ministers. The topic was the Jordanian economic restructuring and adjustment programme for the years 1989-1993.

I was lucky to attend this valuable lecture and to participate in the question and answer session that followed the lecture.

I am not going to summarise the policies, objectives and procedures that were touched upon. Nevertheless, I am going to share reflections and insights with my readers.

Last week, an official told the public that the purpose of the IMF programme was to enable Jordan repay its debts. This may be true in the longer run, because a healthy and growing economy is of course more able to service its debts and meet its commitments, but the real purpose of the programme is to correct distortions and dislocations of the economy, to reduce deficit in the budget and current account of the balance of payments and to try to help the country function and live within its own means. Had the aim of the programme been to squeeze the Jordanian people and starve the masses so that the creditors may get more, we would not be interested in supporting such a programme. The correction and restructuring is needed even if all our debts were

written off by a strike of the pen. The repayment of debts is therefore the last of our worries.

In an answer to a question Shaalan stated that within the five-year duration of the programme there would be no net transfer of funds outside. On the contrary, the inflow from the IMF, the World Bank, and the creditors will exceed the outflow, so that the gap will be filled. This obviously confirms our view that the programme is not meant solely to repay the creditors but to get closer to self sufficiency and correct our deviations.

The programme has some public relations stuff to sweeten its bitter taste, such as the protection of the poor and limited income groups, the control of inflation, and the achievement of economic growth.

We doubt whether the programme does actually has solid and specific steps to achieve these three desired objectives. We must admit that it is more likely that the poor and the limited income groups will not be immune from sharing in the cost to one extent or another. The inflation is not escapable in the light of lower exchange rate, and economic growth may not be expected to stem for the public sector who does not have sufficient resources for investment and must reduce, rather than expand, its expenditure.

The success of the programme is crucially dependent on a clear and whole-hearted commitment from the government, coupled

with understanding, conviction, and acceptance by the people. It is not enough to accept the programme hesitantly and half-heartedly. Therefore the programme should be presented and convinced to the public at large. There is no hope that the government can perform its duties under the programme unless the people were convinced that it is in the best of their interest in the present and the future, and that the programme will not starve them for the benefit of the creditors and that the cost to the people will be much higher if the programme was not adopted and implemented.

I tried my best both in the Jordan Times and the Al Ra'i newspapers to swim against the stream and mobilise support to the economic correction programme, out of a sense of responsibility. Needless to say that such endeavour was costly on personal basis. Such a major mission cannot be performed by one person, irrespective of his share of credibility and courage. It is the responsibility of the economic team of the new government. Either they believe in the programme or they don't. If they don't, they should come up with their alternative programme. If they do, they should try to demonstrate their commitment, and sell the programme to the people, using all media outlets, in an atmosphere of free dialogue. Time is very short, and we have little room for waiting before we make up our minds and proceed forcefully in the right direction.

OPEN FORUM

Christianity and Islam

By William H. Taylor.

Godfrey Jansen's article, Christianity and Islam — a generation gap, (Jordan Times, page 4, June 3, 1989) cannot be allowed to go unchallenged. He makes a number of erroneous and misleading assumptions.

Jansen's simplistic and inaccurate assumptions are these: that Islam is a young religion of the "South and East" and that Christianity is an old religion of the "North and West." He continually equates Christianity with the West, and the Christian faith with flaccid, even terminal, decline.

Christianity and Islam share a common background of Semitic theology and culture of Palestine and Arabia respectively. Many of the formative influences on the Nascent Christian church and its theology were identical with those on emergent Islam, both during the lifetime of the Prophet, and in the period following his death. Palestine, of course, was more influenced by Hellenistic thought forms than Arabia, but the basis of both the Gospels and the Koran, and the communities of faith which produced them, remain in the Semitic world.

So much for origins. What of the contemporary scene? Like Islam, Christianity can now claim to be emphatically present in the developing world. I write as an Anglican priest who last year was on the staff of the Lambeth Conference in Britain, now working in an Arab church under Arab bishops. My recent and present experience of the Christian faith is emphatically non-European. The Lambeth Conference brings together Anglican bishops from the worldwide Anglican communion once every ten years. The majority of bishops in the communion are now black, reflecting the fact that the church is growing fastest in Africa. What is true for the Anglican communion in both Africa and the new Pacific basin is also true for the Roman Catholic church in South America and Africa.

Organised monotheistic faiths such as Christianity and Islam throughout their long histories have seen different "epicentres", and different emphasis within the expression of faith. In Christianity, the early epicentre was the Western Mediterranean. It might be argued that the epicentre then shifted to Continental Europe, and now has shifted again to the developing world — principally sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and the new Pacific basin. Within Islam, there is cultural variety too. African Muslims do not perceive the Rosicrucian affair, to take one example, to be an expression of a flaccid and effete Christian culture being challenged by the youthful vigour of Islam, for they recognise it for the distortion it is. Or to take an Asian example of true cultural exchange and cooperation, where in the Philippines, the Filipino National Council of Churches campaigned successfully for the appointment of a cabinet minister to protect Muslim interests.

As in history, so in the present. Islam and Christianity have much in common. Rejection of distortion of the truth is one of those characteristics, whether it be the gross distortions of truth in the writings of Salman Rushdie, or the cynical distortions of truth of those who seek to capitalise on conflict and controversy. If Mr. Jansen needs encouragement in this, he should look to the developing world which he myopically overlooks. He might even find the Koranic injunction to be true:

"Thou shalt assuredly find the closest of them in friendship towards the believers to be those who say: We are Christians." — Surah 5 (Al Maidah): 82.

The Revd. Dr. William Taylor is an Anglican priest in Amman and on the staff of the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem.

Bhutto heads to U.S. in most important foreign visit since taking office

By Mohammed Aftab
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto heads to the United States next week on one of the most important foreign visits of her brief rule.

Bhutto is to arrive June 5 in the United States for a high-profile tour that is to include talks with U.S. President George Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and congressional leaders.

Bhutto said that issues topping her agenda will be economic and military aid and narcotics control.

The primary message of the visit and the talks will be that freedom has returned to Pakistan. It is not only a success for the people of Pakistan but for all those who believe in freedom," she said.

The Western-educated Bhutto, 35, is the first woman to head a modern Muslim state and has attracted much favourable attention in the West. But many of her constituents have been less enamored.

"There is no place in Islam for a woman leader," says Maulana Samiul Haq, a vocal opposition leader in the senate or upper house of the parliament.

Pakistan and the United States are long-time allies. Relations were further cemented during the past decade when Washington stepped in to help anti-Communist Afghan guerrillas, headquartered in Pakistan.

Because of Pakistan's staunch support for the Afghan rebels, Washington looked with favour on requests from the late military强人 Mohammad Zia ul Haq. Under Zia, the army removed Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, as president in 1977. Bhutto was executed in 1979 on charges of plotting to murder an opponent.

Zia died in a mysterious plane crash last August. No one ever claimed responsibility and while sabotage is blamed no suspects have been identified.

Focus on Afghanistan
During the past month, Bhutto has appeared to be carving out a more independent Afghan policy with a return to her earlier emphasis on negotiations rather than a protracted war. But Bhutto has remained adamant that the Communist government in Kabul has to go if there is to be a settlement.

The Afghan issue is expected to dominate talks with Bush and his administration, who have also been trying to come up with their own policy.

The major obstacle to the Afghan settlement is an obstinate refusal of the present administration in Kabul to step down," she said this week. "It is because of this, the war has intensified in Afghanistan in recent weeks."

A sensitive issue is Pakistan's role in the development of nuclear weapons. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has for years claimed that Islamabad may already have "a bomb in its closet." Foreign Ministry officials admit Bush will certainly bring it up.

Bhutto has repeatedly said Pakistan is not producing a nuclear bomb and wants only to develop a peaceful nuclear energy programme.

Bhutto is to meet with Bush June 5 and 6 and address a joint session of Congress. She is to address the United Nations and meet with high-level U.N. officials in New York June 9 and 10 before returning to Islamabad.

While Bhutto expects Western help in tackling problems like Afghanistan and relations with India, her domestic problems appear more daunting.

Domestic woes

Bhutto, even though she com-

mands a simple majority in the national assembly, the powerful lower house of parliament, depends on independents and small opposition party members to keep her in the driver's seat.

Her opposition, the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance has been a thorn in Bhutto's side. It formed the government in Pakistan's populous Punjab province.

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The southern province of Sind, which is her home province, is solidly PPP.

The senate, which is largely a product of Zia, is dominated by IDA-loyalists.

Bhutto maintains a working relationship with bipartisan Pres-

dent Ghulam Ishaq Khan, 73.

Her relationship with the powerful army leadership, the third element in Pakistan's political chemistry, is "a kind of yellow alert, a look-and-see," according to one senior military official.

"When politicians fail, the army has always taken over through martial law," warns Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, a veteran opposition parliamentarian, while counselling Bhutto and her rivals to adopt a policy of accommodation.

In the northwest frontier province, which borders Afghanistan and houses the majority of the three million Afghan war refugees, Bhutto's Pakistani People's Party leads the government. It does however depend on independents and minority party members.

The southern province of Sind, which is her home province, is solidly PPP.

Political and economic problems are growing. A senior Western diplomat blamed "inexperience and intolerance."

Bhutto's harshest critics chide her government for its lack of experience.



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Our planet's wellbeing — a primary concern

NEW YORK — Mankind is becoming increasingly concerned about the wellbeing of its planet, the Earth. This is the main conclusion being drawn from a survey of public opinion and leadership attitudes commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The environment was becoming an important political issue globally, although specific threats and problems were viewed with differing levels of alarm. Nevertheless, certain general attitudes were found to be increasingly prevalent: the investigation showed.

Pessimism about the future was common, according to the poll, claimed to be the first comprehensive, international study of opinions regarding the environment.

Carried out between February

and June of last year, the survey involved more than 6,000 members of the public and 700 people in positions of national influence in Argentina, China, Hungary, India, Japan, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, West Germany and Zimbabwe.

It was found that ecological concerns long felt in countries such as Norway and West Germany were now beginning to be shared by Argentina, China, Japan and Mexico, although this feeling was less prevalent in poorer developing nations such as India, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal.

Apart from those in Saudi Arabia, most of those questioned felt that there had been a decline in the quality of their environment

over the previous decade. Thus, more than six out of ten of those interviewed in India believed that their environment was worse than it was ten years previously. And in China more than eight out of ten people described their environment as merely "poor to fair".

With the exception of the Japanese, most people were willing to provide labour or cash to help improve their environment.

More than six out of ten ordinary Mexicans, backed by eight out of ten of their leaders, feared that their environment would be "much worse" in 50 years if current trends persisted.

In the African countries the survey found the principal concern to be the loss of forest cover and good farmland, the degradation of both air and water, as well

as the dumping of toxic waste. But in Norway and West Germany the problems triggered off by climatic change were a major worry.

The survey's findings are echoed in the increasing prominence now being given to environmental issues on the international agenda.

This is highlighted by the current meeting in Nairobi of the governing council of UNEP. It was hoped that delegates from about 70 countries would take decisions which would bring a long-term, global plan of action a step nearer.

According to Dr. Mostafa Tolba, the executive director of the Kenya-based U.N. offshoot, the meeting could prove a watershed in the battle against environmental degradation. It would either

show that governments meant business, or it would be a continuation of talking and doing nothing, he added.

Dr. Tolba wants UNEP to be given greater powers, including financial resources, so that it can play a more effective role. A particular dream of his is to see the creation of an ecological "Security Council" which would become the world's environmental policeman.

The Nairobi gathering followed closely on a meeting in Geneva of members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, established jointly by UNEP and a sister agency, the World Meteorological Organisation. This is due to report next year. Global environment issues will also loom large at July's session of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council and at its General Assembly in the autumn.

Britain has used the council as a platform to call for a worldwide effort to combat the so-called greenhouse effect. It suggested the creation of an international convention to tackle the potentially disastrous warming of the atmosphere.

This is being caused by the build-up of gases, resulting largely from the burning of fossil fuels. More was expected to be heard of the British proposal at the UNEP meeting.

It must be admitted that the international community already has a number of the ecological initiatives to its credit. Among recent examples are the Basic Convention on the trans-frontier movement and dispersal of hazardous wastes and the Montreal agreement on ending the use of chlorofluorocarbons.

It has now been agreed to speed up the phasing out of these industrial chemicals which are damaging the Earth's protective ozone layer. — (Lion Features)

Soviet Jews visit Israel — a first step to emigration?

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Three nights a week, one of the more bizarre by-products of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of "glasnost" lands in Israel.

Nicknamed the "video express", a Cyprus Airways plane brings hundreds of Soviet Jews to tourists to visit the holy land — many clutching video recorders which are the key to their future prosperity back home.

Gorbachev's easing of emigration and travel restrictions on Soviet citizens has allowed a swelling number of Jews to visit their relatives in Israel, changing planes in Cyprus where they can buy relatively cheap videos.

Travellers invest their life's savings at the duty free shop at Larnaca airport. Back home, the videos fetch huge sums on the Soviet black market.

"For one video you can buy a car. For two you can get an apartment," said Aaron Menachem, a ground staff official at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport who handles the Soviet visitors.

On a typical flight last week 31

videos, 12 radio-cassette recorders and several radios rolled off the luggage carousel. One plane the week before carried 45 videos.

The Jews, many from the Caucasian republics of Soviet central Asia, are mostly leaving their home country for the first time and appear bewildered.

Long-suffering Cyprus Airways stewards say they sometimes have to physically separate the travellers from their video recorders before boarding the plane.

The flights invariably leave late because the last tearful grandmother is still arguing with cabin staff to be allowed to carry her video onto the plane instead of depositing it in the baggage hold.

"It's terrible when they get to Tel Aviv. They don't want to let the videos out of their sight but they have to deposit them in a bonded customs warehouse until they fly back to Russia," said Elena Louca, a Russian-speaking Cyprus Airways interpreter who shepherds the Soviet Jews in transit.

"Comrades, please identify your luggage and leave your video recorders with the baggage

handlers," she shouts over the hubbub of Russian, Georgian and Yiddish as the bus crosses the Larnaca airport tarmac.

Jewish emigration on the rise

After nine years of cold war during which Jewish emigration plummeted from a record 50,000 in 1979 to a few hundred a year, the gates opened again to larger numbers in 1987.

Last year some 24,000 Jews left the Soviet Union forever — only about 2,500 of them chose to settle in Israel — while another 10,000 Soviet Jews visited Israel as tourists.

Foreign ministry spokesman Motti Amitai said the number of Soviet tourists was now running at about 2,000 per month.

The boom is exceptional at a time when the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has plunged the Israeli tourist industry into the doldrums.

But the Soviet Jews are not high-spending visitors. Having spent their hard currency on videos, most stay with their relatives while in Israel. Few book

into a hotel.

The tourists must pledge to return to the Soviet Union. Only a handful have broken ranks and stayed on to claim their right as Jews to Israeli citizenship under the law of return, Amitai said.

The tourist wave is now so big that it is often impossible for ordinary travellers to get a seat on an Israel-Cyprus flight, booked up months in advance by Soviet groups.

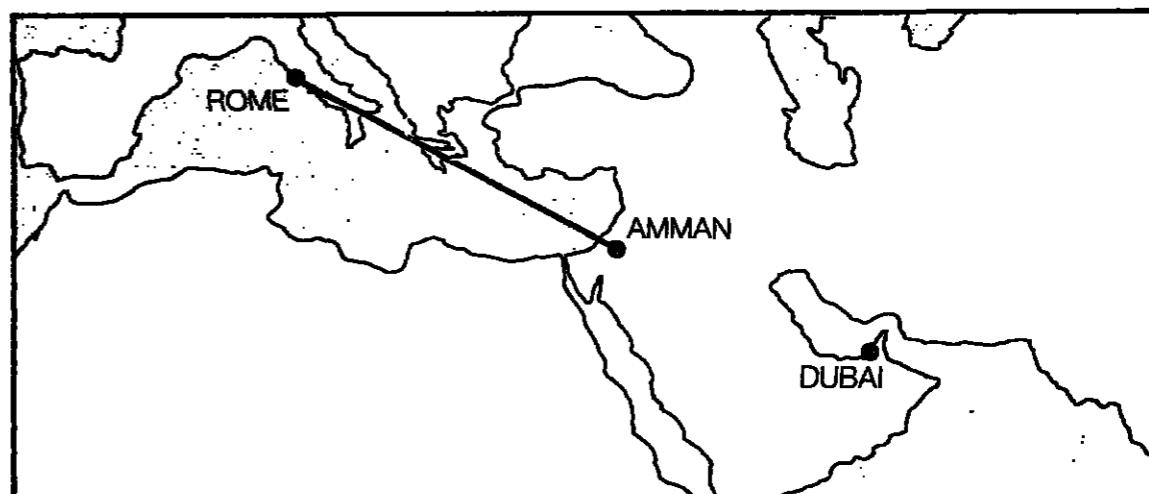
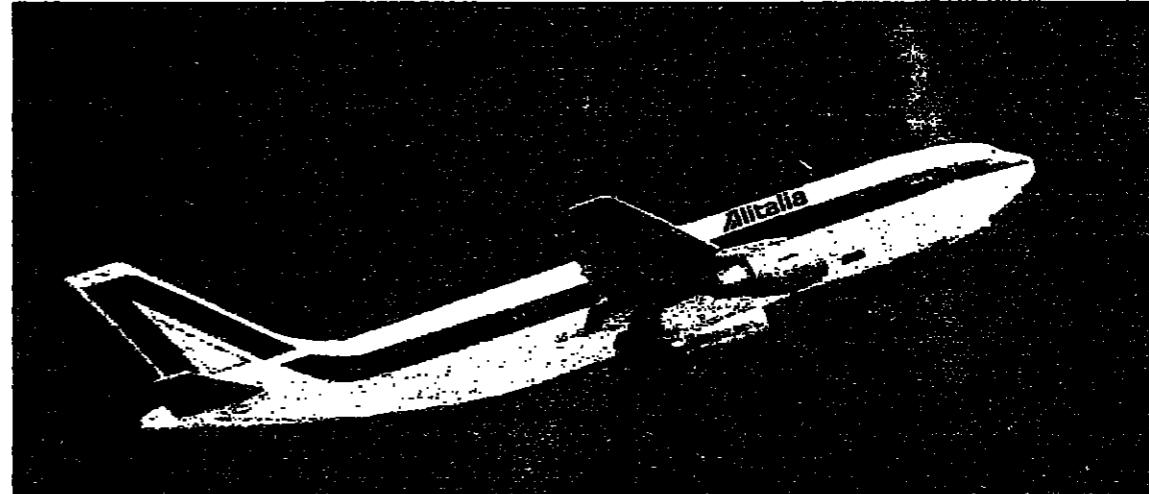
For political reasons, there are no direct flights between Tel Aviv and Moscow. The Kremlin has not restored diplomatic relations with Israel, severed during the 1967 Middle East war, although the two countries have exchanged consular missions.

Aviation sources said the Soviet state airline Aeroflot and Israel's national carrier El Al have had indirect contacts about starting a Moscow-Tel Aviv route to capitalise on the lucrative tourism market.

But political obstacles had prevented such a move so far.

"In the end we think this will promote Jewish emigration to Israel," a senior immigration official said.

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Green power spreads through Australia

By Robert Woodward
Reuters

SYDNEY — Environmental concerns are high on the political agenda for the first time in Australia's history, causing consternation among political leaders and industrial giants.

After 200 years of treating their continent with profligate disdain, Australians have awakened to the fact that the delights of the "lucky country" are finite.

Richardson's efforts to have Australia's last area of rainforest in North Queensland declared a world heritage area convinced the voters of labour's "green" determination.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke won his first election in 1983 partly because of his pledge to intervene and stop the Tasmanian government's plan to dam the Franklin River.

The issue catapulted Brown into the national spotlight and led to his election to the Tasmanian parliament as the country's first "Green" member.

Since the recent election the views of the greens, castigated by some as left-wing trouble-makers, have taken root in sections of the community concerned that Australia is following a course of "development at any cost" in its bid to widen its manufacturing base and reduce its trade deficit.

Sydney, whose residents are devoted to outdoor pursuits, showed widespread disgust at beach pollution last summer.

More than 400 people in southern New South Wales were

arrested recently in an attempt to prevent logging in a centuries-old forest.

From the flinders ranges of South Australia to the Queensland coast people are worried about the effect of tourism — tourist projects worth \$12 billion are in the planning stage at the end of 1988.

Hawke, who must call an election before November 1990, has moved with the ecological tide, wary of voter apathy after six years of Labour rule.

Even before the Tasmanian election, opinion polls showed Labour falling behind the coalition. Liberal support remained static, however, with voters switching their allegiance to minority parties such as the Greens and Democrats.

Just months after dismissing out of hand a demand for money to investigate the "Greenhouse effect", Hawke pledged \$6 million for research.

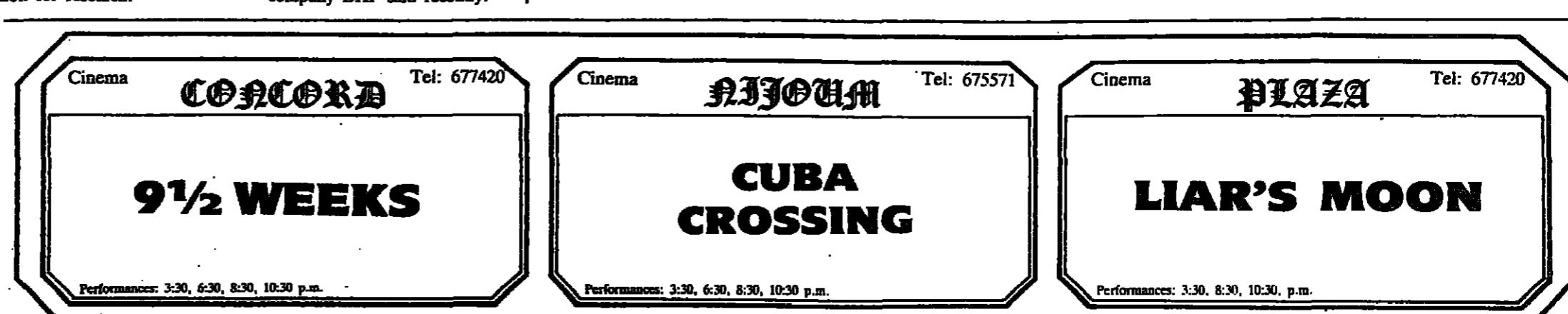
His government intends setting up a commission which will weigh the economic benefits of development against their environmental cost. It has appointed an ecology professor as the head of a newly-established science council.

Analysts say Hawke will find it difficult to satisfy his economic and environmental aims.

"Labour will have to resolve the problem of deciding how to neutralise the greens while meeting the economic requirements of industrial development," the right-wing Australian newspaper said in an editorial.

Industry has reacted with mounting alarm to the increase in influence of the ecology lobby.

"In 1989 we seem to be caught up in an endless and exhausting war of words over various resource developments — in other words polarisation, not consensus," Sir James Balderstone, chairman of Australia's largest company BHP said recently.



Top French banker calls for firmer monetary stability

PARIS (R) — The Group of Seven (G-7) top Western industrial nations, suffering from see-saw fluctuations in the dollar, should tighten coordination on exchange rates to bring greater stability to their currencies, French central bank chief Jacques De Larosiere said Saturday.

Expanding on an idea proposed Wednesday by President Francois Mitterrand, De Larosiere said present G-7 currency coordination, based on the 1985 Plaza and 1987 Louvre accords and supplemented by central bank intervention, should be extended.

"Major industrialised states have begun the process of economic and exchange rate policy coordination," he said. "It is essential that this process should continue and grow."

De Larosiere made his remarks in a speech to the foreign exchange dealers association meeting in Lisbon.

A former governor of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), De Larosiere said the Washington-based agency's responsibility for surveillance of exchange rates may be one practical method of achieving managed currencies.

This "cannot fail to help the return to a greater formalisation of exchange rate rules," he said. "At the level of the international monetary system, this is the essential basis on which to succeed."

Mitterrand first proposed the idea to economy ministers of the 24 member nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) during their annual meeting in Paris last week.

The OECD came up with no clear solution to the dollar's surge which threatens to reverse a correction in trade imbalances and has exposed the fragile nature of G-7 coordination.

Though the French president has not yet proposed placing managed currencies on the agenda of the G-7 summit in Paris on July 14, economists believe he

G-10 gives boost to Brady plan

On another monetary issue, major industrial nations gave broad backing Friday to a U.S. plan to slash the Third World's \$1.3 trillion debt but they warned commercial bank lenders not to expect a bail-out by taxpayers.

Endorsement by the Group of 10 (G-10) was a welcome boost for U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady after strong criticism of Washington's trade and budget policies at the OECD.

Further support for Brady's controversial initiative, which

yet attempt to do so.

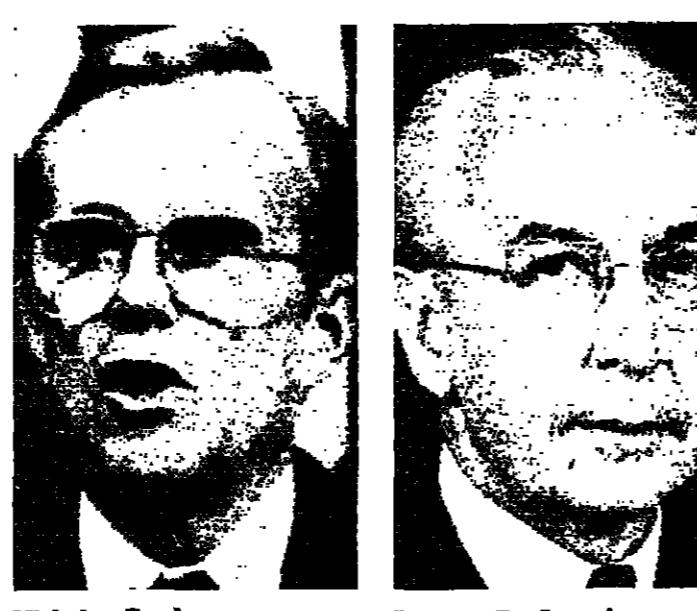
So far, Mitterrand has emphasised he wants the summit to produce new initiatives on world debt and environmental protection.

Economists noted however that a similar managed currency suggestion made by Edouard Balladur, finance minister under the right-of-centre Jacques Chirac government, found little international support in 1987.

De Larosiere said floating exchange rates, which began in 1971 with the end of the Bretton Woods fixed rate system, were increasingly being called into question.

Floating had not, as hoped, freed domestic policies from international influence. It had not eliminated trade imbalances between major nations, nor deterred currency speculation.

By contrast, the stability brought by confidential G-7 currency ranges backed by central bank intervention had reduced uncertainty of financial markets, improved the economic climate and encouraged growth in investment and world trade, he said.



Nicholas Brady

Jacques De Larosiere

aims to spur economic growth in developing countries by persuading banks to forgive part of their loans, is likely at a seven-nation economic summit in Paris next month.

"I think we've made a good start" with the debt plan, Italy's deputy central bank governor, Lamberto Dini, told a news conference.

Some officials fear if debt reduction is not handled properly taxpayers in rich countries will end up assuming the burden of debt instead of bankers.

"Official creditors should not substitute for private lenders," the G-10 said bluntly.

Talks in political groupings like the G-10 and the OECD have smoothed the way for Brady plan, but it faces its first real test in negotiations now taking place in New York between Mexico and its bank creditors.

Progress has been slow with Mexico, the Third World's second biggest borrower with external debts estimated at \$107 billion, demanding concessions that the banks have so far refused to make.

But Dini saw a good chance of an agreement before too long, and John Reed, chairman of Citibank, the biggest U.S. bank, said in a French newspaper interview published Friday that a deal could be struck within the next two weeks.

Dini was the author of a report on the debt strategy that was approved here in Bernie Friday by finance ministers and central bank governors of G-10 countries.

The G-10 in fact comprises 11 countries. In addition to the powerful G-7 — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, Canada, France and Italy — its members are Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

The debt reduction envisaged by the Brady plan "could make an important contribution by reducing financing needs and the stock of debt to more manageable levels over time and provide a stimulus for stronger growth and sustained reform efforts," the G-10 ministers said in a communiqué.

The report admitted that earlier efforts had fallen short of expectations.

"Seven years after the outbreak of the debt crisis, many debtor countries still face severe financing constraints and GDP growth remains generally insufficient to raise per capita incomes and improve living standards," it added.

Under Brady's proposal, which he first outlined March 10, the IMF and the World Bank would set aside part of their regular loans to finance the reduction of commercial bank debt.

A country could use the money to buy back its loans directly from banks or to secure new, less expensive bonds that it would offer in exchange for the bank loans.

The IMF and World Bank, whose directors recently agreed on guidelines to implement the plan, would make additional loans to back interest payments on the debt that remains.

Inflation in Yugoslavia hits 600 per cent

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav authorities, grappling with fresh ethnic Albanian unrest in the southern province of Kosovo, suffered an economic blow Friday with official data showing that inflation hit 600 per cent in May.

The Federal Bureau of Statistics said annual inflation rocketed by a monthly record of 111.5 percentage points to stand at 601.6 per cent, compared with 49.1 per cent in April. In May 1988, inflation was 149 per cent.

The setback coincided with a strike by 3,500 shipyard workers in the Adriatic port of Split and other industrial disputes, which represented the first major labour challenge to Prime Minister Ante Markovic since he took office in March.

Markovic's government has predicted that inflation would reach 945 per cent for the whole of 1989. But some Yugoslav and Western economists say it may soar above 1,000 per cent and a significant drop will not come until next year.

Dinar loses value almost each day

Apart from runaway inflation, Yugoslavia is burdened with a foreign debt of at least \$21 billion, 16 per cent unemployment, low productivity in many indus-

tries and a currency which loses value almost daily.

The dinar was quoted Friday at more than 14,300 to the dollar, compared with 10,500 a month ago and 1,900 a year ago. Economists say a new 100,000-dinar bank note which appeared last week will soon have to be replaced by an even larger bill.

Markovic, a Croat who advocates market-based policies, has refused to introduce curbs on wages and prices. He says this may increase inflation in the short term but it will gradually force companies to discipline themselves to avoid bankruptcy.

The former government of Branko Mikulic, who resigned in June 28,

December in a parliamentary showdown over inflation, provoked strikes and street demonstrations by workers when he tried to impose wage restrictions.

Markovic told visiting American businessmen last week his government's relaxation of import controls was already helping to increase industrial production, stimulate exports and improve supplies on the domestic market.

A delegation of the International Monetary Fund began negotiations with Yugoslav officials Thursday intended to produce a new stand-by credit accord for Yugoslavia, to replace a one-year arrangement which expires June 28.

South Korean auto exports fall sharply

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's exports of motor vehicles fell sharply between January and April, while domestic sales increased significantly, the trade and industry ministry has reported.

During the first four months of 1989, the Korean auto industry

exported 134,000 motor vehicles, down 31.7 per cent from a year ago, the report said.

Officials said the tally included 130,556 passenger cars, about 75 per cent of which went to the United States. The portion going to America a year ago was 85 per cent.

The number of locally assembled motor vehicles sold at home jumped 27.2 per cent from a year ago to 202,000, of which 125,000 were cars and 77,000 commercial vehicles like trucks and buses.

Domestic sales were growing due to rising income among Koreans and the addition of new models. Auto makers have stressed marketing at home over export sales because domestic sales generated better profit margins,

the officials said.

Officials predicted it would be difficult to attain the 1989 domestic and export sales goal of 1.51 million vehicles, including 651,000 vehicles for exports.

Sluggish exports contributed to a 36 per cent drop in Korea's trade surplus to \$1.65 billion between January and April, the trade and industry ministry also reported.

Korean exports to the United States, the country's biggest market, rose only 0.8 per cent from a year ago to \$4.49 billion, the ministry said.

The big increase in imports was attributed partly to Korean efforts to avoid trade friction with the United States by reducing its bilateral trade surplus. The surplus was about \$10 billion last year.

Korea's trade deficit with Japan during the first four months widened to \$1.41 billion, an increase of 7.6 per cent from a year ago.

Korean exports to Japan rose 14.7 per cent to \$4.09 billion and imports rose 12.7 per cent to \$5.5 billion.

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JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 18F/89 (for the supply, supervision of erection and commissioning of 4 electrical rotary blast-hole drill for Eshidiya mine).

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, supply department until 3rd July 1989, application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (180).

The closing date for submission tenders is 12.00 hours local time Monday, 17, July 1989.

Wasef Azar
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Premier tells Algerians to work harder

ALGIERS (R) — Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah has urged Algerians to work harder, saying democratic reforms launched after last October's riots were at stake.

In an interview published Saturday in the official daily El Moudjahid, Merbah said the Algerian economy was plagued by labour unrest, stagnating industrial output and inadequate cultural growth.

"The economy must be revived. Algerians must work more

intensely and increase their productivity," he said.

Riots last year over deteriorating economic conditions pushed President Chadli Benjedid to accelerate the liberalisation of economic and political life.

But the country remains burdened by a heavy foreign debt, inefficient industries, shortages of consumer goods and one of the world's fastest rates of population growth.

"The worst of the crisis is ahead of us," Merbah said. "It is

on the economic front, and that of labour productivity, that the success of the political reforms will be decided."

Industrial output in the first quarter of this year had stagnated compared to the last quarter of 1988, mainly because of strikes and shortages of raw materials, Merbah said.

Industrial output was running 10 to 12 per cent higher than in 1988 because of rains in March and April, but was still not excellent, Merbah noted.

Crackdown on black market

On Wednesday, Algeria has ordered a major crackdown on black marketers who are making colossal profits from the sale of contraband goods.

Frontier controls are to be tightened, all merchants will have to register, goods seized by customs will be destroyed or re-exported and "income of doubtful origin" will be heavily taxed.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, June 3, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
U.S. dollar	Buy 561.6	Self 567.6	French franc 85.2
Pound Sterling	900.6	902.6	Japanese yen (for 100) 399.8
Deutschmark	289.1	292.0	Dutch guilder 256.5
Swiss franc	336.6	340.0	Swedish krona 85.4
			Italian lira (for 100) 39.8
			Belgian franc (for 10) 138.3
			138.7

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (I.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during Tuesday, May 27, '89 and Wednesday May 31, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinar).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	2466	4104	1,650	1,680	1,000
Petra Bank	18975	45743	2,400	2,300	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1335	2654	1,950	2,050	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	9241	13325	1,420	1,450	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	58403	70052	1,240	1,180	1,000
Housing Bank	143	270	1,830	1,850	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	2300	5451	2,370	2,370	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	1390	42395	30,000	30,500	5,000
Bank of Jordan	2284	36146	15,400	15,200	5,000
Arab Bank	5830	870450	149,500	120,500	10,000
Jordan National Bank	11116	27411	2,450	2,460	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development					

Davis hits first Red cycle in 30 years

CINCINNATI (AP) — Eric Davis became the first Cincinnati Red to hit for the cycle in 30 years when he drove in six runs Friday night in a 9-4 victory over the San Diego Padres.

Not even a sore leg could Davis out of the record books with a single, double, triple and homerun. He coaxed all the speed he could out of his injured left hamstring on a seven-inning triple.

"I didn't know how the hamstring was going to hold up until I got to second," Davis said. "Once I got to second base, I made up my mind."

Davis doubled home Barry Larkin in the first inning, singled him home in the third and hit a three-run homer off Walt Terrell, 4-6, in the fourth to give the Reds a seven-run cushion.

Davis' seventh-inning triple to centre off reliever Dave Leiper made him the first Cincinnati player to hit for the cycle since Frank Robinson on May 2, 1959, against Los Angeles.

Elsewhere Friday, it was: San Francisco 7, Atlanta 6; Houston 1, Los Angeles 0; New York 3, Pittsburgh; Chicago 5, St. Louis 2; Montreal 2, Philadelphia 1.

Giants 7, Braves 6

Rick Reuschel won his seventh straight decision to become baseball's first 10-game winner, and major-league leader Kevin Mitchell hit two home runs to lead San Francisco.

Astros 1, Dodgers 0

Mike Scott pitched a four-hitter, and an error by Los Angeles pitcher Fernando Valenzuela gave Houston the only run as the Astros extended their winning streak to eight games.

Mets 3, Pirates 2

Dave Magadan hit a two-run

homer with one out in the bottom of the 11th inning to give New York the victory. Randy Kramer, 1-2, got the win.

Cubs 5, Cardinals 2

Rick Sutcliffe won for the third straight time in pitching Chicago to its 12th victory in 16 games as the Cubs handed St. Louis its fifth straight loss.

Expos 2, Phillies 1

Andres Galarraga's infield single with two outs in the top of the 13th inning scored Mike Adepte from the Montreal Expos sent the Philadelphia Phillies to their ninth straight loss.

American League

DETROIT (AP) — Robbie Bob Milacki gave up two hits in 8 1/2 innings Friday night as the Orioles beat the Detroit Tigers 4-1 for their fifth straight victory.

The Orioles, leading the American League East at 28-22, won for the 15th time in their last 20 games. Baltimore did not win its 28th game last season until July 10.

"We had some tough times, but this is a good time to get on a roll," Milacki said. "Everybody's confidence is up and it's early. That should help us down the road."

In his entire professional career, Milacki has never lost to a Detroit team — either in the minor leagues or in the majors. Milacki made his big league debut against Detroit last Sept. 18 and Baltimore beat the Tigers 2-0 on a one-hitter with relief help from Tom Niedenfuer.

In other games Friday, it was: Toronto 7, Boston 2; Minnesota 8; Chicago 0; New York 3; Milwaukee 2; Texas 9; Seattle 5; Kansas City 4; California 0; Cleveland 5; Oakland 3.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Boat racers return to scene of accident

MIAMI (AP) — Hydroplane racers Jim Kropfeld and Scott Pierce returned to the waters of Miami Friday for the first time since their near-fatal accident last year. Kropfeld, driver of the Miss Budweiser boat, and Pierce, who piloted Mr. Pringles, are competing in the second event of the HFC hydroplane series, with the finals set for Sunday. Kropfeld, 48, turned in the fastest qualifying time at a speed of 129 MPH (207 KMPH). He admitted last year's accident, which left him with a broken neck, certainly was on his mind. "I was under control. I was in the exact same lane where it happened last year, so it did pop up in my mind," he said. Pierce, 33, did not miss race last season despite almost drowning at Miami. He averaged 119 MPH (191 KMPH) in Friday's heats. He, too, had 1988 on his mind.

Detroit beats Chicago to NBA finals

CHICAGO (R) — The Detroit Pistons beat the Chicago Bulls 103-94 Friday to win the best-of-seven games Eastern Conference championship series 4-2 and advance to the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals against the Los Angeles Lakers. Isiah Thomas scored 17 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter to lead Detroit to the NBA finals for the second consecutive year against the Lakers. The Lakers won the best-of-seven series 4-2 last year. The finals will begin this Tuesday. Chicago's Michael Jordan scored 32 points in the series final after being held to 23 and 18 in the fourth and fifth games. Chicago played virtually the entire game without starting forward Scottie Pippen, who was elbowed in the left eye in the first minute of the game by Detroit centre Bill Laimbeer.

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Kenyan wins men's 800 metres

PROVO, Utah (R) — Olympic champion Paul Ereng of Kenya came from 12 metres off the pace to easily win the men's 800 metres and Americans Dennis Mitchell and Dawn Sowell ran the fastest men's and women's 200 metres in the world this year Friday at the U.S. collegiate championships. Ereng, who attends the University of Virginia, was timed in one minute, 47.50 seconds and he blitzed the final 300 metres to defeat Dieudonne Kwizera of Burundi and the University of Nebraska by three metres. While Ereng won a tactical race, the sprinters blazed, aided by the rarefied air at the Brigham Young University track, which is 1,381 metres above sea level. Mitchell, the fourth-place finisher in the Olympic 10 metres, exploded to an early lead and won the men's 200 metres by two metres in 20.09 seconds. The victory avenged a false-start disqualification for the University of Florida student in Thursday's 100-metre qualifying.

"We had some tough times, but this is a good time to get on a roll," Milacki said. "Everybody's confidence is up and it's early. That should help us down the road."

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Poland polls today

WARSAW (R) — The government and Solidarity both sought to cool the heated pre-election atmosphere as Poland prepared for Sunday's historic poll which will allow the opposition into parliament for the first time in four decades.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa called on his free trade union to be patient despite allegations that government agents had tried to interfere with the union's poster campaign.

"On both sides pre-election demagoguery is causing us too much disorder. The elections will end and we'll have to solve Poland's problems with the set-up which we get," Walesa said in an eve-of-poll television interview.

Polish leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski, in a broadcast Friday evening, also criticised both government and opposition for excesses in their pre-election rhetoric.

He proposed that a "broad coalition," be created after the two-stage elections June 4 and 18

to grapple with Poland's pressing problems, including a \$39 billion foreign debt and inflation rising towards 100 per cent.

But he did not make clear whether opposition figures would be offered government posts.

Solidarity and the government agreed after round-table talks in April that the opposition would stand for 161 of the 460 seats in the Sejm (lower house), with the rest decided by internal contests in the ruling Communist Party and its allies.

All parties can compete for the 100 seats in the less powerful Senate (upper house).

Solidarity election rallies were continuing up to the last minute Saturday, but the government, whose candidates have appeared

less keen to go on the hustings, seemed to be relying on its domination of television and radio coverage.

Communist Party spokesman Jan Bisztyga said Friday that Solidarity had rejected a proposal to ban campaigning over the weekend.

The party's daily Trybuna Ludu Saturday delivered another swinging attack on Solidarity for dallying with extremists who would like to call in question Poland's foreign policy — by implication, its alliance with the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, editor Jerzy Maja said: "It would be good if none of the sides won in these elections." An optimal result would give the government enough power in parliament to rule, and the opposition enough to vet its actions, he suggested.

In the elections, Poland's 27 million voters will face between four and seven ballot papers, depending on area, and will vote

by crossing out names they do not want. Where no candidate wins over half of valid votes, the top two contenders go into the second round.

The poll is the first of its kind in Eastern Europe since communist regimes took over the area after World War II.

They go further than partially liberalised elections in the Soviet Union in March, although diplomats said the fact they were being held at all clearly stemmed from the new policies of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The unprecedented nature of the election and uncertainty over how Poles will vote has made it unclear when definitive results will be known, but candidates expected early returns by Monday, with complete first round results possibly Tuesday afternoon.

On the eve of the vote, many Poles were sceptical about whether it would change anything.



Polish opposition leader Lech Walesa on the campaign trail inviting Poles to "ride the Solidarity tank to freedom."

thing.

A 25-year-old Warsaw Polytechnic student said: "I'm planning to vote for Solidarity. If there's even the smallest chance

of diminishing the influence of those in power, then we should give it a try."

But a 24-year-old lorry driver said he would not vote: "It'll

make no difference who gets in. Once they get in, they'll start travelling to the West and living it up. Faces change, but the situation doesn't improve."

Column 10

1 convicted on burial scandal

GALATIN, Tennessee (AP) — A jury has found the son of a former funeral director guilty of larceny for his role in helping bury a body without a casket. Gary Wilks, 31, faces additional charges in a burial scandal in which authorities found more than two dozen bodies buried without caskets and vaults in Kentucky and Tennessee. Wilks was convicted of larceny by false pretenses in the burial of a man in 1988 without a vault and casket paid for by the man's family. A vault is a metal or concrete enclosure into which the casket is lowered at burial.

Unexpected visitors block Louvre entrance

PARIS (R) — Queues grew outside the Louvre museum's glass pyramid Thursday as police tried to shift some unexpected visitors — two plump Friesian cows. French farmers, protesting at European Community (EC) milk quota levels, used them to block what is now the only entrance to the world-famous museum for over two hours. Scruffies broke out between the 150 farmers and policemen, who tried to stop journalists from talking to the protesters, eyewitness said.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	F Weather
AMSTERDAM	29	48	20 86 Clear
ATHENS	18	64	30 95 Clear
BAHRAIN	28	82	35 95 Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	33 91 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	10	50	16 61 Rain
CARDO	21	70	37 99 Clear
CHICAGO	14	57	26 79 Rain
COPENHAGEN	10	50	15 65 Clear
FRANKFURT	68	46	18 83 Rain
GENEVA	12	54	22 72 Rain
HONG KONG	24	75	37 87 Rain
ISTANBUL	15	58	26 79 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	15	60	21 71 Cloudy
MADRID	10	50	16 65 Clear
MOSCOW	27	61	46 116 Clear
MONTRÉAL	13	57	26 79 Clear
NEW YORK	29	65	41 106 Clear
PARIS	18	62	24 75 Clear
ROME	20	68	26 79 Cloudy
VIENNA	11	53	18 65 Rain

François Mitterrand

announced by police banning traffic from Central Paris between July 10 and 17, at the height of celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of France's anti-royalist revolution.

One RPR hardliner careered into hyperbole when he listed the prosecution evidence that Mitterrand secretly wanted to be crowned, nearly two centuries after Louis XVI lost his head on the guillotine.

"François Mitterrand is no longer uncle, he is God — he is Caligula," belled Eric Raoult in Parliament in a far-fetched allusion to the deranged Roman emperor who appointed his horse a consul.

'Closet king' ridicule irks Mitterrand

PARIS (R) — France's divided opposition is praying it has at last found a winning formula by attacking President François Mitterrand as a would-be king ruling by royal whim and decree.

The accusation is a grave one in republican France but conservative parties have hurled it freely at Mitterrand this week in issues ranging from immigration to African debt.

The 72-year-old head of state,

the son of a railway worker and a life-long socialist, is showing the first shot last weekend when he attacked Mitterrand's plan to write off the public debt of 35 poor African countries.

Ex-president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the main opposition candidate in the elections for the European Parliament, fired the first shot last weekend when he attacked Mitterrand's plan to write off the public debt of 35 poor African countries.

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The 72-year-old head of state,

the son of a railway worker and a life-long socialist, is showing the first shot last weekend when he attacked Mitterrand's plan to write off the public debt of 35 poor African countries.

He was happy after his first election in 1981 with the popular nickname of tonton, a child's way of saying "uncle."

Last January he said he was untroubled by satirists who started calling him "God" because of his aloof manner.

But the "King Francois" tag

appears to have hit a sensitive nerve.

Mitterrand aides and ministers say the opposition strategists who plotted the campaign, unleashed in parliament and the media, are desperate to divert attention

from their own mounting problems.

With the June 18 European elections around the corner the right-wing RPR and centrist UDF parties are hunting for ways to reverse a damaging series of electoral defeats, internal splits and poor scores in opinion polls.

The decision was proof of the president's "Solitary and monarchist" style, Giscard said in a television interview.

The refrain was quickly picked up in the parliamentary debate on the government's immigration bill aimed at softening the harsher aspects of a law passed by the previous conservative government.

Opposition deputies, who have

tabled 250 amendments to the bill to drag out the debate, accused Mitterrand of being a "royal progressive" and encouraging illegal immigration.

They seized on an order

they were responsible for the mess that provoked military intervention in December 1983.

The military then forbade political activities and only lifted the ban early last month.

Witnesses said market

women, school children and the jobless joined the students as early as 6 a.m. (0500 GMT).

They erected barricades around government buildings and blocked major streets. The rioters were shouting slogans against the government, witnesses said.

The congress had also Wednesday issued a statement demanding "realistic minimum wage to ease the hardship in Nigerian homes."

The protests began May 24 at a university in the midwestern city of Benin, 270 kilometres east of Lagos and quickly spread to other campuses all over the country. By Wednesday morning, authorities had closed 13 academic institutions because of demonstrations.

The protesters say they are against the government's strict adherence to an austerity programme demanded by Western creditors. The austerity programme has caused sharp rises in the

prices of some basic foods and services.

Wednesday's rioting was disrupted when students, ordered to leave two Lagos universities and four polytechnics, poured into the streets instead of going home.

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women, school children and the jobless joined the students as early as 6 a.m. (0500 GMT).

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Police first tried to disperse the rioters peacefully but they were pelted with stones and planks of wood. But by 2 p.m. (1300 GMT) had fled altogether, leaving colleagues in helicopters to throw tear-gas canisters and shoot at the rioters.

However, a senior official of the International Monetary Fund said Nigeria's "economic crisis is not serious."

Gordon E. Gondwe, IMF deputy director in charge of Africa, told journalists "there is a social problem in Nigeria because the pains of the structural adjustment programme are now widely spread. The poor do not benefit at the same pace as the people in a programme."

Witnesses said the rioters disrupted ongoing general certificate of education examinations in schools, and freed an unknown number of suspects being taken

to court in a police truck.

The uneasy calm in Lagos

Thursday was disrupted in the evening when riots erupted in Ikenja, a Lagos suburb, and later spread into nearby slums.

However, police said order was later restored.

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation with an estimated 110,000 people. It is also the continent's leading oil producer.

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